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Extract from the Honourable Mr. CHARLES FOX's Speech, at the General Meeting of the City and Liberties of Weſtminſter aſſembled in Weſtminſter-Hall. On Wedneſday laſt, February 2d. 1780. to Petition Parliament for redreſs of Grievances.

IT is high time that the People ſhould unite in one great National Plan of common ſalvation. Nothing but the efforts of the People, the legal and conſtitutional Aſſociations of the People at large, can reſcue this devoted Country at this moment, from the power of *INFLUENCE*. That this is conſtitutional is undoubted, for what is the nature of the Government of this Country---King, Lords, and People.---For the Houſe of Commons is no more than the delegate, the repreſentative of the People, who have intruſted for a time their power, their rights, their intereſts in their hands. If that delegated body fails in the execution of their truſt, if they abandon the intereſts of their conſtituents, they are no more the repreſentative of the People.---They are the inſtruments of the Crown.---The queſtion is, whether they have failed in the execution of their duty? whether they have reached the point of diſtinction between being the Repreſentative of the People, and the Inſtrument of the Crown? or whether they have paſt it? I will not ſay that they have.--But, if they refuſe to grant the purpoſe of the preſent Petition, if they reject meaſures of Œconomy---from that moment they will paſs the line.---from that moment they will ceaſe to be the repreſentative of the People, and it is legal conſtitutional and neceſſary for the People to aſſume the truſt which their delegates ſhall have thrown off---this is the univerſal ſenſe of the Nation. No Man can be ſo depraved, ſo blinded by faction, ſo ignorant of the conſtitution as to deny the doctrine---The adherents of the preſent Miniſtry may call it unconſtitutional, the Men who enjoy thoſe extravagant Emoluments and unmerited Penſions, may ſay that it is unconſtitutional to be deprived of them.---They may ſay this in holes and corners, but they dare not boldly come forward at the public meetings and avow their aſſertions.---Proteſts may be contrived, as ſenſeleſs as they are impudent, by the Men who are robbing the Public in the preſent Day of general deſpondency and diſtreſs, and their proteſts may be ſent to Hedge Alehouſes to be ſigned by their needy dependents---But they dare not meet the People of ENGLAND fairly, and ſupport their claims and pretentions to thoſe places either by argument or proof. It may be ſaid that theſe Petitions lead to Anarchy and Confuſion. They do not---They lead to the contrary---They tend to prevent Anarchy and Confuſion, they tend to prevent the fall of this *EMPIRE*. To reſtore us to harmony, order, and to peace, by vigour exertion and ſucceſs---But ſay they, this is not a time for ſtraightening the hands of Government? Œconomy is giving new ſupplies to Government. All that can be ſaved from the ſink of corruption will be applied to the ſervice of the State, will add new ſtrength to our Arms, and enable us to maintain that unequal conflict in which we are engaged.---But ſay they, this is not a time for theſe complaints, this is not a time for this Reformation---What? is not the moment of neceſſity the time for relief? is not the moment when we are moſt hardly preſſed for ſupplies the moment for Œconomy? Undoubtedly it is. Nothing but the determined reſolutions of the People, the temperate and firm deciſions of Engliſhmen united in one plan, and preſſing to one point, can ſave them. Thus united, thus exerting themſelves, no Prince however obſtinate, no Parliament however venal can oppoſe or reſiſt them. If they call to mind the treatment they have received, the manner in which they have been loaded with Taxes. while in the midſt of Public calamity and Public want, the revenue of the Sovereign has been encreaſed with an Hundred Thouſand Pounds a Year and He the only Perſon, whoſe Eſtate cannot ſuffer from the blunders and incapacity of his Miniſters, if they call to mind this, they will know, that from ſuch a Miniſtry nothing is to be expected but miſery and ruin. The People muſt be the Miniſters of their own deliverance, and the road to it is open. Let not the People be deterred by the term ASSOCIATION as implying any thing unconſtitutional. With ASSOCIATIONS they have it always in their power to maintain the independence in which they were born, and to compell the body, whom they have entruſted with their rights, to do them juſtice; but without ASSOCIATION they muſt fall a ſacrifice to that corruption which has given the Crown an *INFLUENCE* unknown to any former Period of our Hiſtory.---Permit this INFLUENCE to encreaſe and the Country will be enſlaved, deſtroy it, and the Engliſh Conſtitution can never be overthrown.

This Speech was received in Weſtminſter-Hall, by a numerous Aſſembly of upwards of Four Thouſand People with repeated ſhouts of Acclamation and Applauſe.